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Hello

My name is Jozef Thomas Essavi and I am running for the Board of Trustees, Seat # 6. The college district has a 51% graduation failure rate and that is simply unacceptable.

We need change. Currently I am serving as a Los Angeles County Commissioner and two term elected member of Winnetka Neighborhood Council.

Los Angeles Valley College empowered me with the tools to successfully transfer and receive my BA in Political Science from UCR, and my MA from Cal State Northridge.

Evidently, Los Angeles Community College District, the largest in the nation, with more than 120,000 students, serving some 30 cities including the entire city of LA is a vital part of our community.

I know first hand since I was elected and reelected as the ASB Union Treasurer and was nominated unanimously by my college to be the Student Trustee while having worked with students, faculty and administrators very closely and solved mutual problems.

The Trustees oversee an annual budget of more than \$640 million dollars while at the same time decide on the expenditures and implementations related to the 5.5 billion dollars in voter approved bonds not to mention everything from salary negotiations to decisions on the best subject areas to be taught.

They also deal directly with Sacramento in order to secure district's fair share of education funds.

I will represent the district's taxpayers, students, faculty and administrators with a fair and open mind.

In these difficult economic times I will oppose any tax increases and will closely oversee the already approved funds to construct new facilities and expand and improve the already existing ones.

The taxpayers do need an advocate who is not beholden to any special interests, and who is not afraid of reviewing the millions of dollars in cost overruns including late fees and penalties assessed to projects because of poor management and lack of planning.

I will improve and expand our vocational and workforce based training programs and transfer programs.

I will advocate lower fees and expand public/private partnerships and scholarships to help students with their soaring text book costs.

I will advocate tenure for the professors so that they will not be shuttling back and forth between campuses and rather concentrating on their students.

As a trustee I will not stifle successful campus administrations rather I will give them local control.

I have extensive skills dealing with local and countywide issues and will use that expertise to make our District better and more efficient. I am married and father of three children and on March 3rd, I need your vote. Thank you.